
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CURRENT USE AND POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF SERVICES AT LEAHI HOSPITAL AND MALUHIA HOSPITAL, INCLUDING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING THE HOSPITALS AS CENTERS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR NON-FORENSIC PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, there is a pressing need for expanded community-
2 based mental health and substance abuse treatment services in
3 Hawaii and the only State facility for such services is the
4 Hawaii State Hospital, which is at capacity and exclusively used
5 to treat forensic patients; and
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7 WHEREAS, a significant contributing factor to high forensic
8 utilization is due to individuals ordered to the Hawaii State
9 Hospital for temporary hospitalization for lack of alternative
10 treatment options; and
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12 WHEREAS, beds provided on contract by the private sector in
13 Hawaii and on the mainland cost over thirteen million dollars
14 per year; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature has appropriated funds for the
17 design and construction of a new secure forensic patient
18 facility to be completed but there is no additional provision
19 for beds and other services for patients who do not need the
20 restrictive environment at Hawaii State Hospital; and
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22 WHEREAS, community capacity for mental health treatment is
23 inadequate at outpatient, intermediate, and inpatient levels;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, public buildings constructed for the provision of
27 health care, such as Leahi Hospital and Maluhia Hospital,
28 continue to serve as safety net facilities to meet existing and
29 emergent community needs; and



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2 WHEREAS, Leahi Hospital and Maluhia Hospital have bed space
3 and facilities appropriate for providing memory care, mental
4 health, and substance abuse treatment services; and
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6 WHEREAS, Leahi Hospital is adjacent to Kapiolani Community
7 College, which has a long history of health care training and
8 would be well-positioned to serve as a teaching hospital to
9 train behavioral health workers; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
12 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
13 Department of Health is requested to convene a task force to
14 study and make recommendations on the current use and possible
15 expansion of services at Leahi Hospital and Maluhia Hospital,
16 including the feasibility of using the hospitals as centers for
17 community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment
18 services for non-forensic patients who do not need the
19 restrictive care necessary at the Hawaii State Hospital; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
22 include the following members or their designees:
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- 24 (1) The Director of Health;
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- 26 (2) The Director of Human Services;
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- 28 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President
29 of the Senate;
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- 31 (4) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed
32 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 34 (5) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health
35 Systems Corporation, Oahu Region;
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- 37 (6) Two member of the Oahu Regional Health System Board of
38 Directors;
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- 40 (7) A representative from the mental health and substance
41 abuse provider community; and
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1 (8) Additional members with relevant knowledge or
2 experience, at the discretion of the chairperson; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the
5 Director's designee shall serve as the chairperson of the task
6 force; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting be held no
9 later than June 1, 2019; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
12 assistance of the Department of Health, is requested to submit a
13 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
14 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
15 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
18 June 30, 2020; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Chief
22 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Attorney General, Chief
23 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation,
24 Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
25 Corporation Oahu Region, Senate President, and Speaker of the
26 House of Representatives.
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